

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending in the subject application. Claims 10-15 are formally withdrawn. Claims 16-30 have been newly added. Accordingly, after entry of this amendment, claims 1-9 and claims 16-30 will be pending.

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Claims 4-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, and 8 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough examination of the subject application and respectfully request reconsideration of the subject application based on the following remarks.

35 U.S.C. § 102(e) REJECTION

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3 under 35 USC § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 6,870,208 to You, et al. ("You" or the "You Reference"). The Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for the reasons provide below.

The You reference discloses an image sensor module that includes a threaded lens-barrel (48) that is arranged to mate with a frame layer (40), which combination the Examiner maintains corresponds to the "optical path demarcating unit" of the present invention. The lens-barrel (48) and frame layer (40) are screwed together to make assembly and disassembly easy. See, e.g. You, col. 3, lines 27-31.

Claim 1 of the present invention, however, recites that the transparent cover (5) is fixedly bond to the solid state image sensor (1) via a bonding portion (4). As a result, "the relative positional relationship between the lens 13 and the solid-state image sensor 1 (effective pixel region 2) is not influenced by the state of the wiring

substrate 6." Specification, page 21, lines 3-6.

The transparent layer (52) of You, however, is fixedly attached to the upper surface (52) of the frame layer (40), i.e., the "optical path demarcating unit", which corresponds to a different element of the claim, i.e., the "joint path". The molded resin (47) merely covers the resin photosensitive chip (44), See, e.g., Id., col. 3, lines 5-6, and does not bond the chip (44) to the transparent cover (46) as recited in the claim. Rather, the chip (44) is in electrical connection with the first board 60. Se, e.g., Id. col. 2, lines 65-67. Accordingly, You does not anticipate claim 1 because the transparent cover is not fixedly bonded to the solid-state image sensor via a bonding portion.

Accordingly, the Applicants assert that claims 1-3 are not anticipated by the You reference and, further, satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 100 et seq., especially § 102(e). As such, the Applicants believe that the claims are allowable. Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is requested.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a), SECOND PARAGRAPH REJECTION

The Examiner has rejected claim 4-7 under 35 USC § 103(a) as unpatentable over You and claims 8-9 under 35 USC § 103(a) as unpatentable over You in view of alleged "admitted prior art". The Applicants respectfully traverse these grounds for rejections for the reasons provided below.

The shortcomings of the You reference with respect to independent claim 1 are provided above. Claims 4-9 depend from claim 1, therefore, for the same reasons that the You reference does not anticipate the invention as claimed, the You reference also does not make it obvious.

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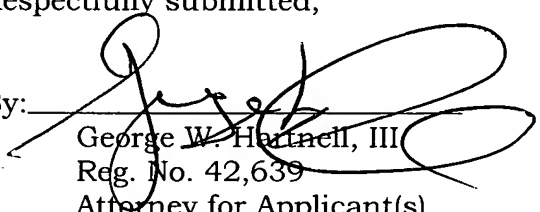
Accordingly, the Applicants assert that claims 4-9 satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 100 et seq., especially § 103(a). As such, the Applicants believe that the claims are allowable. Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is requested.

The Applicants believe that no additional fee is required for consideration of the within Response. However, if for any reason the fee paid is inadequate or credit is owed for any excess fee paid, you are hereby authorized and requested to charge Deposit Account No. **04-1105**.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____


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